

JAMES M. SLATTERY: RECOLLECTIONS OF A NEVADA POLITICIAN AND SPORTSMAN

Interviewee: James M. Slattery

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Description

James M. Slattery, a native of North Dakota, was born in 1907. He became interested in politics and sports at an early age—activities he continued to follow during his later life. Mr. Slattery worked as a teacher, miner, casino dealer, and rancher in North Dakota and Nevada, but his most consuming interest has been in Nevada politics. Elected to the Nevada State Assembly in 1950, and to the Nevada State Senate in 1954, he was a colorful and often controversial advocate of his political philosophy in the legislative forum for nearly two decades. Unsuccessful campaigns for the U.S. Congress in 1968 and for reelection to his state senate seat in 1970 halted—at least temporarily—a notable public career.

An interest in sports has brought Mr. Slattery national fame as a champion camel and ostrich rider in annual races in Virginia City, Nevada, and as a contestant in the annual frog-jumping contest at Angel's Camp, California.

The memoir includes a brief account of Slattery's early life in the midwest, a short teaching career, sketches of his work in northern Nevada mines, information about the Nevada legislature, and remarks about sports events. A philosophical conclusion and notes about his family end the interview.

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An Oral History Conducted by Mary Ellen Glass

University of Nevada Oral History Program

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PREFACE TO THE DIGITAL EDITION

Established in 1964, the University of Nevada Oral History Program (UNOHP) explores the remembered past through rigorous oral history interviewing, creating a record for present and future researchers. The program's collection of primary source oral histories is an important body of information about significant events, people, places, and activities in twentieth and twenty-first century Nevada and the West.

The UNOHP wishes to make the information in its oral histories accessible to a broad range of patrons. To achieve this goal, its transcripts must speak with an intelligible voice. However, no type font contains symbols for physical gestures and vocal modulations which are integral parts of verbal communication. When human speech is represented in print, stripped of these signals, the result can be a morass of seemingly tangled syntax and incomplete sentences—totally verbatim transcripts sometimes verge on incoherence. Therefore, this transcript has been lightly edited.

While taking great pains not to alter meaning in any way, the editor may have removed false starts, redundancies, and the “uhs,” “ahs,” and other noises with which speech is often liberally sprinkled; compressed some passages which, in unaltered form, misrepresent the chronicler's meaning; and relocated some material to place information in its intended context. Laughter is represented with [laughter] at the end of a sentence in which it occurs, and ellipses are used to indicate that a statement has been interrupted or is incomplete...or that there is a pause for dramatic effect.

As with all of our oral histories, while we can vouch for the authenticity of the interviews in the UNOHP collection, we advise readers to keep in mind that these are remembered pasts, and we do not claim that the recollections are entirely free of error. We can state, however, that the transcripts accurately reflect the oral history recordings on which they were based. Accordingly, each transcript should be approached with the

same prudence that the intelligent reader exercises when consulting government records, newspaper accounts, diaries, and other sources of historical information. All statements made here constitute the remembrance or opinions of the individuals who were interviewed, and not the opinions of the UNOHP.

In order to standardize the design of all UNOHP transcripts for the online database, most have been reformatted, a process that was completed in 2012. This document may therefore differ in appearance and pagination from earlier printed versions. Rather than compile entirely new indexes for each volume, the UNOHP has made each transcript fully searchable electronically. If a previous version of this volume existed, its original index has been appended to this document for reference only. A link to the entire catalog can be found online at <http://oralhistory.unr.edu/>.

For more information on the UNOHP or any of its publications, please contact the University of Nevada Oral History Program at Mail Stop 0324, University of Nevada, Reno, NV, 89557-0324 or by calling 775/784-6932.

Alicia Barber
Director, UNOHP
July 2012

INTRODUCTION

James M. Slattery is a native of North Dakota, born in 1907. He early became interested in both politics and sports, activities he continued to follow during his entire lifetime. Mr. Slattery worked as a teacher, a miner, a casino dealer, and a rancher in North Dakota and Nevada. But his most consuming interest has been in Nevada politics. Elected to the Nevada state assembly in 1950, and to the state senate in 1954, he was a colorful and often controversial advocate of his political philosophy in the legislative forum for most of two decades. Unsuccessful campaigns for the U.S. Congress in 1968 and for reelection to his state senate seat in 1970 halted—at least temporarily—a notable public career. Additional interests in sports events have brought Mr. Slattery national fame as a champion camel and ostrich rider in annual races in the old Comstock town of Virginia City, and as a contestant in the yearly “frog jumping” at Angel’s Camp, California.

When invited to participate in the Oral History Project, Mr. Slattery accepted readily. In a single taping session held at his

ranch home in the Truckee River Canyon on December 10, 1970, he appeared to enjoy recounting a few of his many experiences. He declined, however, to add further details; thus the researcher will need to find supplementary documents to fill the record of this interesting man and his activities. Mr. Slattery generously donated a clipping file and a few papers to aid this research. The memoir includes a brief account of an early life in the Middle West, a short teaching career, hints of his work in northern Nevada mines, some remarks on various sports events including the camel and frog contests, and a longer section on the Nevada legislature. A philosophical conclusion and some notes about his family end the interview. James Slattery’s review of the transcript of his oral history resulted in no changes from the document as submitted.

The Oral History Project of the University of Nevada, Reno, Library preserves the past and the present for future research by tape recording the reminiscences of persons whose activities have been important to the development of Nevada and the West. Scripts

resulting from the interviews are deposited in the Special Collections Departments of the University libraries at Reno and Las Vegas. James M. Slattery has generously assigned his literary rights in his oral history to the University of Nevada, and designated the volume as open for research.

Mary Ellen Glass
University of Nevada, Reno
1971

EARLY LIFE AND CAREERS

My granddad came into Bismarck in 1864. My mother was born in Norway; she came from Norway and came into Bismarck, North Dakota about 1890. And my granddad used to own the whole town of Bismarck, which he did. He donated a square block for the federal post office. He was a Democrat; he was the first Democrat postmaster in Bismarck, North Dakota. And he ran for the city council and he was elected every time he ran back there, and [his] life was politics.

Speaking of ethnic minorities in North Dakota, we didn't know what a minority was in North Dakota in our childhood. I think there were two colored kids in high school, played basketball and football on the same teams with me in Bismarck. They were quite athletes. (They went on to college. And I tried to trace most of 'em.) We won the state high school football championship and basketball championship three times, and they went on to college, but I've lost contact. I think pretty near the whole football team, practically, has died, that I played with in high school, which

is amazing, isn't it? And I was a little older than most of them.

I had an English teacher that was named the Teacher of the Year, I think, about eight or nine, ten years ago, that taught in high school (her name was Rita Murphy) for the whole United States. (I see Nevada now has put up a teacher for Teacher of Year for the whole United States.) But this Rita Murphy, her father was a judge on the Supreme Court, and her son today is the head of the Provident Life Insurance Company, which was started in Bismarck, North Dakota. (And I remember I used to caddy and sell newspapers to all of the people that used to be there. There was Conklin and Edick and different ones that since then have passed on that started in Bismarck.) It's a very large insurance company. [When] I came to Reno a few years ago, and I went up to the school with my wife and—to especially look up Mrs. Edick. We had quite a talk. And my wife, in the course of the conversation, said, "For a brilliant English teacher, you didn't do too well with my husband."

And she said, “You should’ve saw him when I got him!” [laughing]

I mean, this really happened, two years ago.

I was very active in pretty near all sports. I caddied on the golf links and played golf, sort of. When I was a kid, they used to let us play on rainy days. I’ve been to the forefront in Reno in sponsoring the junior golf every year. I give a lot of money to it, and sticks to it, because [I] remember when I was a kid one man’d give me an old golf stick, and some fellow’d give me an old bag. I remember we used to have to steal the golf balls we’d caddy for a man, and we’d steal [laughing] one or two out of his bag, little balls, so we’d have one to play with, you know [laughing].

I can remember this Dr. Paul Cook, he’s a doctor down in Santa Maria, California. In fact, we meet every year with Lawrence Welk in Las Vegas for a week. We spend a week down with Lawrence Welk because we were all raised back there together.

It’s very amusing if you think of some of the incidents. I remember on Halloween, we had a new high school in Bismarck, and we had a Fourth Ward schoolhouse. It is a relic in Bismarck today, like the Fourth Ward schoolhouse in Virginia City. It happened to be right off of Fourth Street, and they used to have the streetcar going from downtown. It just ran it from downtown Bismarck up to the state capitol, and we used to come out and put bullets on the track, and we’d put ties on there so they’d jump the track, the kids, you know, coming out of school. And I always remember on Halloween we used to go and get all the old wagons and junk, and we’d pile it as high as we could around the doors of all the school buildings. Then I think today what idiots [we] was, because the next day we had to go and all of us haul it away, take it down [laughing]. I mean, these are things that really happened.

And I had a scholarship to play football and basketball in North Dakota State. I enjoyed the year there and then Mayville State Teachers College offered me more money to attend up there to play football and basketball. And then I took up boxing and won the collegiate boxing in the state heavyweight professional boxing championship at Dakota, too.

There’s a lot of things that—see, you talk about—every teacher that I can remember in high school or grade school or college are those teachers that had discipline. They were real strict. And all the other teachers—I can’t remember any of their names or anything what I can tell you, like Matilda Pollard in high school, and Robert Murphy taught in college, and different ones I can—. C. C. Swain was president of the college. He lives in Phoenix now. I guess he’s about eighty-two. He went back this year to—they were honoring my graduating class, and due to the election, I didn’t go. And now, if I’d known what I know now, I’d’ve been there, because I promised to attend; then I changed my mind on it.

When I first got out of college, I was the athletic director for the transient camps. This was a federal program where the federal government set up in all of the big communities along the Northern Pacific and Southern Pacific railroad. Where the transients’d get off the train, they’d have a place to stay and take a bath, and they had athletic and educational programs for [them]. They tried to make a better life for ‘em. It was very interesting. I started a boxing team when I was there, and pretty near everyone that I taught won every championship back there in those days. They were just kids trying to get around the country, trying to make a—you know, make a better way of life for themselves.

Then I was offered a job in Sanish, teaching. I guess I was such a bad teacher that,

right after I left there, they built a big dam there. It's a hundred and seventy-five miles long (it's called the Missouri River Diversion) and destroyed the town. And now the town was moved someplace else, and they call it New Town.

I had a contract to go back to teaching; I think it was 1937. I was going through Lovelock, Nevada, and I was going on the bus. My family all live in California and we'd moved—they'd moved out there and I went out to visit, and I was on my way back just before school, and I stopped off in the Big Meadow Hotel in Lovelock, Nevada. And [a] kid that—his sister taught over there, I guess forty years, May Battcher, and his name was Fritz Battcher, and he went to the University of North Dakota. He was the middleweight boxing champion when I was a heavyweight. And he was running the hotel and he asked me to stay a couple of days. And I kinda liked Nevada at that time, which I do more so now. And he got me a job working out in the Seven Troughs, in Rochester, the old mining districts of years ago in the state. And I kinda liked that.

So I liked the outdoors and mining, and I run the old Preston mill (that's one of the old-time families over in Lovelock out in Majuba Canyon; that's in the Seven Trough district). Then I went up and I worked in the cinnabar mine at—where Dr. McAdoo and I happened to see it was very rich cinnabar, which, you know, mercury comes from. And all of the teeth started falling out of the men, you know, and their hair started falling out, so I got out of there and I went over to West Coast mine. And then I went up to the Getchell mine. I worked for Roy Hardy, who's one of the old-time mining engineers in the state of Nevada. And Weiss, you know, was one of the great mining engineers of the state of Nevada. He was there at the time. The Works, father and

son—their name was Work—they run the mill there at the Getchell mine. Then they sent me over to the Crown mine that they owned, way over on the other side of the mountain there, to help them build the mill. I just seemed to enjoy that.

Then I broke my foot in the West Coast mine out of Winnemucca, and I couldn't work in the mine. So then the state made a settlement.

I was offered a job teaching in Missouri, so I went back to teach school in Missouri. I had a broken foot and I coached. I guess I was there about four, five weeks, and I started playin' basketball, and my foot seemed to get all right.

I wrote to Raymond I. Smith when I was teaching in Missouri, because two or three of the men that worked there, Chuck Webster and Don McDonald, who are the big bosses there now, played professional basketball with me in Minot, North Dakota, [on a team] called the Minot Elks. And I'd talked to 'em when I went through there, in about '40, and they said it was easy to get a job. And I wrote Raymond I. Smith, and he wrote me to come right out; he'd have a job waiting for me when I got here.

This was quite [an] experience. I worked many, many years. I still work, you know, publicity, for 'em. But I learned to deal dice, "Twenty-One," the wheel—pretty near every game they had. It was a very fascinating experience.

Dealing today is very poor pay in comparison to what we made in those days, because we got more money. In those days, I got twenty-five [dollars] a day, seven days a week, where now they work about five days a week and get twenty a day. And you could hustle tips, you know [laughing]. You know what I'm talking about. Now, even like your re nice to a customer, they get mad at you.

You know, used to be nice. Didn't have to pay taxes on 'em, either, until after I'd quit, they started making 'em pay taxes, and so they were all tax-free. But it came easy, and went—you know, and everybody spent it easy.

So then I tried to enlist in the Army, and they told me I was too old. So finally, I'd registered for the draft when I was at Winnemucca, so—. They sent me to Fort Douglas. And there was a fellow there that had thirteen kids on the bus and myself (I was thirty-eight). And everybody in the bus laughed at us two. They said, "You'll be the only two that don't go." And we were the only two that they accepted out of the whole bunch, this fellow with all, the children and myself [laughing].

You know, these, I think, are very interesting things.

Personally, I didn't care much for the Army. As you probably know, the way I am, I don't like to be regimented— you know, regimented, or anything like that. I used to have a lot of fights in the Army with the sergeants, and things like that. You know, they were all young and big and tough, and I was old. And it's funny. They always pick on the old fellows in the Army, these young ones. I don't know why, but there'd be a fellow who was older than they were, they were always givin' orders and jumpin' and jumpin' and—. I told a few of 'em, "It's nice when you get the stripes on," that, "you take 'em off; we could be even." They all took 'em off, so I had a real good time [laughing]. I didn't lose any battles.

Well, I like Nevada. I think it's a wonderful place. We've lived in many places. We've lived in Hawthorne. My wife and I (we've been married about thirty years), we were in Gabbs Valley when there was only two trailers up there; we had one of them, working up there in Gabbs Valley, you know. Things like those, to me, are very precious moments. We've

walked all through the hills in Gabbs. And then I got arthritis up there (I think I was about forty-three), I couldn't even get out of bed, couldn't even move. And I must've eaten—. Used to go to Dr. Lombardi, and he'd give me sodium salicylate pills, and I must've eaten two bushels. I told my wife one day to throw them out the window and take me outside and lay me in the sun. And I was out in the sun, just burnt crisp, and it went away, and I just get a little pain once in a while. Because I think the sun is the greatest healer. We lived out there in the hills.

[I'll] never forget—I think the most exciting time— right after we moved up there, Wild Horse Annie [Velma Johnston] and her husband moved up there, you know, and Wild Horse Annie had this next place down the road. I don't know if you know that. Well, we were in Gabbs together, and they bought that place, and we came later and bought here. [In] fact, if you read her book, it'll tell about her coming from her ranch down to our ranch and discussed the bill with me before I introduced it.

Well, one morning, it was very windy out, and this was when I had the arthritis, you know. I could hardly walk. And they were lookin' out the window, and outside, the Chick Sale, you know, had blown over. And I was just—could hardly move, lust step by step, and I got just—with my hand out like this [gesturing]. And they was afraid to holler out, 'cause I couldn't hear 'em, anyway, and they thought I was going to fall in the hole. And I just got to the last step, and I looked up, and I was—you know, stopped from goin' in. She tells that story a lot, Wild Horse Annie (they lived in where Thornton's is, down there; it's a nice, beautiful white house; she owned that. And then they sold that).

I've always liked politics. I was raised in the state capitol. I remember I used to sell

newspapers to [William] Lemke. He ran for president, one-eyed man, you remember, from North Dakota; he was a Senator for North Dakota for years. And there was Lynn Frazier.

You probably remember they introduced the farm moratorium. I remember Bill Langer was a very good friend of mine. He was the governor four or five times, United States Senator. Lot of people in Nevada, you know, they'll say, "I don't know how this man ever existed," you know, "how he ever stayed in office." He graduated from Columbia University with the highest honors of any man that ever got out of there. He was a lawyer. And I remember back during the Depression, the bank, oh, Minneapolis, the banks there had big mortgages on all the land and farms and—. (They're called "farms" back there when you got three or four sections; out here, a half an acre's a ranch.) But [laughing] these farmers back there, they came in the bank, you know, and said to take in the farms, and he declared a farm moratorium. They kept coming anyway, so he called out the militia. And I always remember, he said [laughing], "First banker that steps on any ranch or any farm, shoot to kill. Don't ask 'em any questions!" You know, this is the kind of governor he was.

Now, every one of those ranches has become self-rich— you know, because it had good crops over the year and all of them due to this man, otherwise the banks would own 'em. We were back in Dakota a couple years ago, and we noticed that every place had new machinery, you know, brand new, and—. We stopped in, finally, and asked the fellow [why], and he said, "Well, you know, the insurance companies and banks are buying these now and combining 'em and making big places out of 'em."

And my wife and I have always talked like we have this two hundred acres here, but

it's going back to the feudal days where few people owned all the land. You take Elko, now, four or five ranches'll combine and sell, and it's happened here; it's happening all over the country. But only the big places are going to exist under the things.

SPECIAL INTERESTS IN SPORTS

I was called by a man who writes for five hundred magazines (he wrote the best seller on Mexico), and he called me the greatest athlete in the Midwest one time. I was captain of the college football team, basketball team, boxing team, and golf team. In high school, I was captain of the first state championship football team Bismarck ever had. I think it probably is the only one they ever had. But we had an exceptional large team. I weighed a hundred and ninety pounds, stripped, back in '28. In college, I was six-two. I was a big man in college, six-two. Today, if you haven't got four or five, six-five or seven foot, it's amazing! I had about a hundred and some boxing matches, and never got knocked out, and never knocked anyone out.

I think the most amazing—probably should've been—believe it or not, was about 1935—or '34 or '5, I fought for the state boxing championship on the third of July in Minot, North Dakota, and I won it. Same day, I played in a golf tournament at Max, North Dakota, and won it. On the Fourth of July, I played in a golf tournament in Sanish,

North Dakota, and won it. And that same night, I defended the boxing championship in Rugby, North Dakota, and won that—two golf tournaments and two boxing matches in two days. I mean, this, to me, is very strong.

Now, the man that—I don't know if you ever read any of his works, he used to be a—had a radio—we didn't have TV in those days. He had a radio program, and something that might be interesting to people here is that North Dakota has a state bank, state-owned bank, started in 1919. They have a state-owned mill and elevator. It's the only state in the union that has their own bank. And I go in the banks in Nevada and ask 'em, "Is there any state-owned banks?"

They said, "Are you crazy? No state'd have their own bank."

And I tell 'em, "Well, North Dakota does."

They don't believe me, they look it up in the—it's in their big book, you know.

But the man that I was talking about, his name is Irving "Speed" Wallace. Now, you must've seen some of his articles in

magazines and things. He wrote this—he's wrote a lot of best sellers. He wrote the best seller about Mexico five or six years ago. He lives in Mason City, Iowa. And he's written to me a dozen times, wants to do my life story, about my athletics, about my camel races, about my frog jumping and ostrich races.

I think it might be interesting to tell you how I got in the camel races. A whole bunch from Virginia City went down to California, where they have the date festival. And Bob Richards had promised his wife—or had promised some people down there he'd ride in an exhibition race on a camel. I don't know—it was about in the '50's, sometime, and my wife and I were along. There was a whole bunch of us. Jim Gross, who just died, was there, and—, So they called Bob out there, and his wife went along (she was a lot larger than Bob), and she said, "What are you going to do?"

He said, "I'm going to ride a camel."

The said, "I'll guarantee if you ride a camel, you'll be divorced tomorrow," She said, "You are not getting on that camel!"

So everybody said, "Well, our senator'll take his place," you know, without consulting me.

And Mrs. Slattery happened to be there, and she said, "I know he's going to ride the camel. He'll do anything!" she said. "But I'm leavin', because I'm got going to [laughing] stick around and see a jackass fall off a camel."

That's what my wife said to me, and she left. We had our boy was going to military school down in California. She said, "I'll go down to the school and see the boy, but I'm not stickin' around to see a jackass fall off the camel" [laughing], and that's how I got to ride 'em. And then I went to the frog jump. I've won pretty near every trophy there is, in

the "frog" for the mayors and the governors and the celebrities every year—I've won pretty near all of them. I've won every camel race, ostrich race.

It's kind of fun. I think it's great for the state of Nevada because we get in every national paper in the United States when they jump frogs; we've got every national TV. don't know if you know, they got those cameras out there all the time, every radio, television California has. And Nevada gets lots of publicity off of this. And they get the same off these camel races and ostrich. They go all over the world! In fact, Paramount made a movie of the camel races. And Lorne [Black] was over in Vietnam, in the theater, and he's sittin' with all the officers. And they came on with the camel racing, he said [laughing], "There's my father-in-law!"

They said, "You liar!" You know, they all said, "You're a liar," you know. They wouldn't believe him, that I was his father-in-law, ridin' a camel in the races up there.

Then the same Paramount group starred me in the frog jump that was in Reno, and they had the movie here in Paramount. I saw it in 'Vegas; I didn't see it here, but somebody called me up and said, "I just saw the movie about you jumping frogs down in—."

First, they had a little boy, you know, that was waitin' at the plane, and somebody was sendin' a frog from New York for him to jump. And he was waitin' at the plane and it showed me as senator jumpin' a frog, and it was very interesting.

So I was out to the Dunes Hotel, and one of the bell captains said, "I just saw the movie of you down at the theater."

And I said, "What's that?"

And he said, "Frog, on the frog jumping contest."

And I said, "Oh, gosh, I've got to go see that!"

So I called up the theater and I told them who I was. "That frog," he said, "comes on in a half an hour, and tonight's the last night. you can be my guest. Just come down, then go in."

So I just went in and saw the frog and left, because I don't care much for movies.

THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

I ran for the assembly in 1951 without expecting to win because I lived down here [at the ranch], and I didn't know anyone in Virginia City. So I went up there and went door to door and introduced myself to everyone. I enjoyed it very much, and I happened to win the primary. And then, in the general election, there was a fellow filed as an Independent, and the fellow I ran against, I think I beat him about seven, eight votes. But this fellow who ran as an Independent, he took sixty-five votes, and I think he took 'em all away from the Democrat. I mean, I still say that's how I won the first election.

And I remember the first time that I went to the legislature. I had very good relationships in the assembly with all of the fellows. Not very many legislators left. I think there's only one in the assembly that was there when I was on, and none in the senate—you know, this was how long. Swackhamer's about the only man that's still left, and Senator Brown came in at the same time that I did—no, he came in two years later, in the senate, and he's accomplished a very good job.

You probably realize that I never got along with any governor. They were always mad at me because—. Governor Russell many times called me and wanted me to do this and do that, and I said, "No, the people elected me. I have to answer to the people." And I told Laxalt the same thing. I still think I'm right, that if I make a mistake down there, I want it to be *my* mistake. I don't want it to be the mistake of Charlie Russell or Paul Laxalt. I got along, probably, better with the Democratic governor than anyone. Grant Sawyer and I got along very well, and I think Grant Sawyer probably was the best governor and accomplished more than any governor that I served under.

Talking about the assembly, I can always remember a lady that stood out—that was Maude Frazier. Maude Frazier over the years has been superintendent of schools many places; she'd been in Goldfield, and—. I think she taught Louise Koontz and Johnny Koontz, you know, the secretary of the state, and I think she taught Barbara Coughlan, that used to be the head of the welfare, and

Senator Johnson, and many of these people. And she and I introduced the first bill for eighteen year-olds to vote at this period. I think my name was on the bill with her. And we fought and fought. We had a lot of lawyers in there. We had [Edward] Carville [Jr.]. His father'd been the governor. He died right after he got out that year. He was a real fine boy. Sam Francovich was in there, and we had this [G. William] Coulthard, a lawyer from Las Vegas, who *I* say is one of the smartest men I've ever served with. I think the smartest parliamentarian I've ever served with is probably Jim Ryan. You know, he's the county commissioner of Las Vegas; he was the head of the labor unions before he—well, I guess he's still the big power in 'em. He's a county commissioner down there. I noticed yesterday that he said, "Looks the only way they can solve this is Howard Hughes better appear before the county commission." This is the kind of fellow he is. He's very dedicated. He's a fighter; he used to be a boxer. And he's very interested in the welfare of the state.

This is the year that—labor calls it the "infamous state," when the right to work law was passed in the state of Nevada. It was referred to in those years as the "yellow dog" bill, because back in 1907 or 1912, in that period, down in Goldfield, they'd had the strikebreakers come in there, and they called them yellow dogs, and they referred this bill, and they called it the "yellow dog" bill. I think I was the only Republican that didn't vote for this right to work bill because I feel today, as I felt at that time, that any time you take the right away of an organization—when there's plenty of jobs like you have today, it doesn't make a difference. But say that you have a depression, or something like that. When I worked in the mines, like in the Getchell, a bunch came in from Idaho, Birney, Idaho, and they'd work for twelve dollars a day; and next

week a bunch come in, and they'd work for ten; next week a bunch come in for eight.. And they didn't have the right to work bill in those days. But I'm sayin' this would—they can hire, so the whole economy of the state is affected.

And this is the only time that I was ever offered any money for a bill. I was called. We all stayed at the Golden Hotel in those days. Pretty near all the legislators got a rate there for two dollars a night. And I had seven calls from Los Angeles. My wife was there. They offered me \$25,000; they got up to \$40,000, up to \$50,000, and I don't know how far they'd've gone. I said, "You're wastin' my time because I'm not goin' to vote for the bill." And it's the only time in all the history that any money was ever offered down there. I don't know how high they would've gone, but I wasn't interested.

I'll tell you an outstanding—one of the first senators that served there that was *very* strong labor. And I thought perhaps that he would be anti-labor. E. L. Cord. He was a senator, you know, from Goldfield. So I asked him one day, I said, "I don't understand, Mr. Cord." I said, "You, with all your money and stocks, and everything like that, how every piece of labor legislation comes out, you go to the forefront for it."

He said, "I've never forgotten that I used to be an automobile mechanic."

And this amazed me, you know, after all these years, that— a man like that. He was honest, forthright. We had a lot of good senators at the time that I served with—Cord, Settelmeyer, one of the outstanding men—you can go down the line—they were all real good.

Motives in seeking the senate—one always likes to advance himself, and I had figured that Walter Reid—and I figured right—he was the sponsor of the right to work bill in the senate in 1951, when I was in the assembly,

where he took the battle up with the banker from Tonopah, and I can't think of his name. I remember Tonopah had four assemblymen that time. They had Buol, Boak, Perkins, and McElroy. And then Ely had four at that time; they had Andrew Drumm, they had Hawkins, they had Hawes, and they had Mrs.—oh, I can't think of her name, and Andy Barr. This is the difference in the legislature procedure in those days that had so many.

I figured that Storey County, being a very predominant labor county, that I having gone one way and he having gone the other, that my chances would be very strong in, you know, getting elected to the post, and I was right.

Now, when we first went in the senate, after I was elected, I was called over to Forest Lovelock, who was—maybe I shouldn't tell this story, but he called me over there and—just to show you how politics work, and—he said that he wanted to get on banks and banking, this and that. “Anything,” he said, “you should be on? Labor and mining?” And [if] I'll help him, he'll do all he can to get 'em. So we get down the first day of meeting and I got him what he wanted, and they asked me what I wanted, and [I] told 'em. And he's the first one that jumped up. “Why,” he said, “those are the most important committees here. As a new member, you don't expect to get on those, do you?”

I got up and I said, “You can shove every goddamn committee right up your big, fat—,” and I walked out.

So Ken Johnson says, “You can't leave.”

I said, “Why?” I said, “I was elected to vote down here. I don't have to serve on anything.”

Rex Bell called me back. And he's one of the finest men that I ever worked with. Rex said, “What did you want?”

I said, “I want to be chairman of mining and labor.” Before, I just wanted to be on the committee. [Laughing] You know, they

looked at me, and I said, “You asked me what I want. That's what I want. Either get that or you can have 'em all,” you know.

Never bluffed. If they'd'a bluffed me that day, I was through. I know that. I've been [laughing] around enough to know if any of them had threw a bluff in, then I would've been through, see? So I got what I wanted.

Old Charlie Gallagher, he and I fought all the time, you know, 'cause he—. Now, don't misunderstand me. The man was a dedicated, sincere individual, but I have a way about aggravating some of these strict people, [laughing] you know, with some uncouth things—you know, harmless little things that don't mean anything that I would spring on old Charlie. And he was one of these sedate—. ‘Course, I could never care too much for he or Lovelock for the simple reason that anything that was Democratic, that would do something—.

Like the time they wanted to have a—. The legislature had to vote whether you got a monument of Pat McCarran in the Congress of the United States or not. They got up and fought it, these two guys! I mean, they were small in—. They were so Republican that anything that was for a Democrat, they was against it. And it's one reason why Charlie and I didn't get along, because Sawyer'd want something, and if I thought it was right, like the time they wanted \$2,500,000 for the schools and the Republicans had nine votes and the Democrats eight, I swung over with Sawyer in the special session. And that's the day I think I got the name “the maverick.” But I still think I was right. They needed the money at that time for the schools.

We talked about the Patrick McCarran memorial in the congress, you know, where these two senators, Republicans, voted against it, and this is one reason I don't believe men like this belong in politics, because you got

to be *big*, you know. These are small ideas. Somethin' where you can honor a man in your state, whether you like 'em or don't like 'em. Personally, I think he did a lot for the state of Nevada. I think he was a great man for Nevada, and I think that he should've been honored, and I think if anybody should've got the honor of this statue in the Congress of the United States from Nevada, it should've been Pat McCarran.

You could go back to the assembly. I was one of the introducers of the naturopathic, you know, bill. And I'm a firm believer that—. And I said that I had never gone to a chiropractor, had never gone to an osteopath, but I feel that ninety percent of the cure is the faith in who you're goin' to. I still feel this way. You can go to maybe the worst doctor in the world. But if you've got faith in him and he makes you feel better, that's all you need, you know. I don't know anything about a chiropractor. I know that I got a bad back a couple times, and I went to doctors. They wanted to put my foot up there for two weeks in the thing, and some guy told me to go to a chiropractor. So I went to Jack Buchholz. Two treatments—it went away. And my wife got a bad back, and she went up one time; she couldn't move. Next day, she was worse. She swore she'd never go. I says, "You goin' in today, tomorrow you'll be all right." She went in and she's never been troubled again. So they have a place— you know. They have a place in the world.

I think the many bills—. I put a bill in, you know, for the death sentence of sellers of narcotics, which I think is a good bill. I think it should be passed because it gives a living death to many people, which is worse than murder, to me. In fact, it incites murder because the man that he puts on the drugs, or the woman, they have to go out and rape and kill, or—some of them—not rape, but they go out and rob or kill somebody to get money

to carry on these things. I think this is one of the things that we should have a law in there.

Here's another thing. I introduced the protection of the wild mustangs. Wild Horse Annie came down here, and we were sittin' out here (we lived up in the hill on the house), and we were very good neighbors. She still lives in Reno. And we got that through. But I think it needs a little stronger protection. I think that Cliff Young's goin' to carry the ball this time in place of me. We had planned, if I'd been elected, that that's what we would do.

I introduced many times in the assembly bills to help the Indians, which was—you know, over the years. You know, I have a strange feeling about minority groups. We talk about minority groups, you know. You and I are a minority group. We came over here; the Indians were the majority, you know. See what happened to the majority group by the—one minority group? So just think this over. This can happen! From another minority group getting a lot of power and built up, and things like this, off of your money and my money, to build them up a powerful organization, maybe [the] same thing'll happen to us that happened to the Indians [laughing], you know. I look at it—you know, a lot of ways, and I think there's a lot of humor.

Did I say anything about Walter Reid? I think Walter Reid was probably one of the smartest men that ever served in the legislature. He only had one fault that I could see, that he couldn't listen. He was always right. You know, he and I'd get in a—I'd say, "Well, sit down," he flares up. Like in a Lions Club meeting one night. They were trying to explain something, and his mane went up. He said, "The hell with the organization," and he walked out. And he was the same as Gallagher and the other guy on the McCarran statue. He *would've* been if he'd'a' been there because he felt the same way.

I got along with pretty near all the administrative offices, but I never got along too well with executives. And the reason I got along with the administrative is because they always want somethin'—you know. And they *have* to [laughing] get along with you. That's the easy way, except—.

You know, I had a running feud many, many years with the head of the welfare, and I think I was justified in the extent. She was a very fine lady. She was born and raised in Goldfield, as you know, and I could tell you a lot about her history, which isn't too good down there, but I'm not goin' to do it. I used to go—like one time I was up in Austin, and I was introduced to a pensioner by Senator Lemaire, and so we invited him in. I said, "Come in and have somethin' to eat. Piece of pie or ice cream?"

And he said, "Not me," he said. "The welfare worker saw me havin' a dish of ice cream last week and cut ten dollars off my pension. She said if I can afford ice cream, I don't need that much money."

This is when I started battling, because I don't think this is right. I think a day and age like this, if a man wants a dish of ice cream, whether you're a pensioner or anybody else, you should be entitled to it. Now the pensioner takes his check out and drinks it all up, you know, in two, three days, and then he's out moochin' on the street, or somethin' like that.

Now, we have a man here, this Ken Johnson. You know, he did more for the University, I think, than any man ever in the legislature. I don't know if you know that or not. He married a girl from Wells. Her sister's married to [Joseph R.] Jackson, you know, the editor of the *Gazette* for years. Yeah, Joe Jackson. They married sisters, and some other man here. And she was national committeewoman for many, many years.

So Ken Johnson got beat for the senate, so they were trying to oust her as national committeewoman. I think anybody that's accomplished a good job should be retained in the post. So we were havin' our convention in Ely, and I went up to see Charlie Gallagher to see if he would support her. I said, "Charlie, we'd appreciate it if you would help Kay Johnson."

And, "Why," he said, "I'm not going to help her."

I said, "You remember all the favors that Senator Johnson's done for you over the years?"

"Why," he said, "he's not senator any more. He can't help me any more."

I mean, this is the way people think, you know. She got beat just one or two votes, but "he's not there any more," you see. I don't believe in this man [laughing]. I treat em the same if he's there, or somebody else.

Another fellow that was in there, was a nice fellow, was this Leutzinger. He was senator from Eureka. I think he only served one term. I think he was mining chairman. I was labor chairman at that time, and I think that year, every piece of labor legislation that benefited the labor people was passed in the senate and house both. We raised unemployment, and it hasn't been raised since. We raised pretty near everything to help the people that you possibly could.

Another man that I should mention that I think was a dedicated man that was a good senator; he did what he thought was right. That was Ralph Lattin, senator from Churchill County many, many years.

Some of the issues, now—this Senate Bill 92, you know, passed both the house and the senate—passed both houses, and it was vetoed by the governor, Charles Russell, and we needed twelve votes to override the veto. And I think it was a good piece of legislation,

because I think if you condone anything, whether it's gambling, ranch, or anything else, that they all should have the same privileges, same right to go to court as anybody else.

Well, we had the twelve votes to override the veto of the governor. But Ralph Lattin hated Tom Miller with a passion—you know, [Miller] was head of the park system. He is now; he worked at that time, but then Sawyer let him go, but he got back under Laxalt. So Russell called Ralph Lattin up to his office for the noon period on that afternoon. Whenever the governor vetoes anything, he sends it back, and you set a time when you're goin' to do the—you know. When you're goin' to take it up, you set the time limit that you get it at a certain period, and it was set for one o'clock that afternoon. And he had Lattin in his office two hours, and he promised to fire Tom Miller, do this and that, if he changed his vote. And so we wound up—. There were seventeen senators at that time, but it takes two thirds, twelve, to override the veto of the governor, and we had the twelve— we *supposedly* did. And he wasn't back there in time, so we were going to "call of the house" and sent somebody out lookin' for him. They found him, brought him back, and he voted the other way.

Now, E. L. Cord was in there at the time, and he was a strong supporter of this right of the gambler havin' "a day in court." He don't gamble. He probably never goes in a gambling house, hut he's fair and respected. He thinks everybody under the Constitution should have the same rights, which, today, they do have, but at that time they didn't have. (It looks like Hughes has got two courts today under his thing.)

This problem of the special session on employment security, I think, was in 1958, when, as you know, there were many people out of work in this area. It was just to go down,

if I recall, for—instead of having twenty-six weeks, it extended it for another twenty-six weeks, something like that, to help 'em tide over, you know. A lot of people don't believe in unemployment. [Gesturing] There's one, there [my wife]. Doesn't believe in it. She says, "You don't pay for it, you shouldn't have it." We are one of the only states in the union, you know, that the employer pays all of it. I don't know whether you know this. California, I think, is another one. But very few of 'em.

I think one of the most interesting committees that I ever served on was the fish and game committee. My wife, you know, was on the state Fish and Game Commission, appointed by Sawyer, and served on the state Fish and Game Commission. She's the one that put in this nineteen-inch minimum at Pyramid, that proposed it. And they used to catch fish half a pound, a pound; now they catch 'em ten, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen—every day you see in the paper where they're catching large-sized fish. And I give her the credit for that, for gaining it.

They used to have four or five fellows that used to be real hot tempered, and they'd come down; all they'd do was fight with the Fish and Game. And [Don] Crawford was chairman of fish and game in the assembly, and I was chairman in the senate, and he wanted me to chair the meeting when they were all there. They had Evans from Fallon, Bill Millich from Lovelock, Roger Teglia, couple out of Winnemucca.

I'll never forget the day that—they'd always get up, you know, and argue, but nothing pertaining to bills at all. So I chaired the meeting, and I said, "I want you to know, today, we're here to discuss six bills. I know there's eight or nine of you in here always want to talk about personalities with each other." I said, "I'm here to discuss the six bills. That's what we're goin' to discuss. Anybody gets

out of line on something else, I'm bangin' the gavel; I'm going home, and you can have the chambers to yourself."

It was the only [laughing]—the only peaceful Fish and Game meeting they ever had! Well, that's the way I felt about it. I didn't want to listen to their problems or troubles.

I think perhaps the 1955 session was probably the most notable because that's the time that we had the sales tax introduced; we had the Peabody formula introduced; some concern that studied the gaming came in with proposals. I guess each one of the bills—there were four of them, in fact, that were introduced that were four or five hundred pages long. We had—I think it was 1,200 bills besides that, or 1,196 besides that introduced, and I made the statement that if any man read two of these bills, and understood what was in 'em, he wouldn't have any time to look at any of the others. And I think perhaps this is one reason why you have committees that—all the banking bills go in the banking committee, the judiciary bills go in judiciary, and the financial bills go in the committee on finances and taxation, and they're supposed to come out and tell you what's in the bill, but a lot of times, they came out and gave you one side and don't always give you what's there. I usually catch it myself, but a lot of times they'll do this.

I notice the last session of the legislature, in '69, more particular than any other time, that there was a lot of squawk about the finance committee, that they killed a lot of bills that should be passed, and vice versa. And a lot of them have the idea that all financial bills should be discussed by the whole senate and the whole house. I would like to say, if this ever happened, you'd be in there twelve months a year, because everybody has a different idea, and if it was good enough for the lawyers down there, the judiciary committee—

I would like to say that the committee on finances has people from different walks of life. I was on the finance committee; I'm a rancher. Fransway is on there; he's a former schoolteacher, and he's with Southwest Gas. Pozzi is on there; he has a car agency in Carson City. Jim Gibson's on there; he owns a big plant in Henderson. Mahlon Brown is a lawyer; he's from Las Vegas. We have Emerson Titlow, a real estate and insurance man from Tonopah. He's moved to Reno now, I guess under reapportionment. He'll probably run for senator out of *this* district. And the other man that was on there was Senator Lamb that was a rancher for many years out of Lincoln County, where he was first elected. And then when they started to do away with Lincoln County, he moved to Las Vegas cause his brother was sheriff and he had a brother that was a county commissioner. And I think perhaps all the Lambs are very sincere (there's nine brothers). But I think the people in the area're gettin' a little sick of three Lambs. They beat the county commissioner, who's been doing a good job, real bad this time, and they might take the senator with them next time. I hate to see it. I think this session of the legislature, particularly, you're goin' to have a lot of fisticuffs because you have three or four hotheads in there. I'll not mention 'em, but I was able to separate 'em every time they started to fight down there, and I don't know if anybody's going to have the courage to step in there between 'em, you know [laughing], because you always get a chance they might let one go and *you*'ll be on the receiving end. But I always stepped in. I stepped in between Lamb and Pozzi, and Lamb and Swobe. I think that Drakulich is very hot-headed (from Sparks), so I look for this to be a very tough program.

This California-Nevada Compact Commission, I believe, was set up to study

the water situation in the rivers. It was in the legislature for ratification last time, and two of us in the senate didn't vote for it. I was one, and Senator Farr was the other, and we both got beat, so I guess maybe we were wrong. I feel that priority of the water should go to Pyramid Lake. I think it's one of the greatest assets in the state of Nevada. I think in time that it'll be an asset as great as Lake Tahoe. The reason I feel this way is because down in Fallon every year, they want to put in another thousand acres of land, and every place else in the country, they're paying them to not plant, and out here, they're looking for more.

Well, the Newlands Project—now, I notice today's paper, where the Indians say they've researched all of the titles that they can find, and everything, into the Newlands, and they've written to the head of the federal organization pertaining to the lands, and they haven't been able to produce any right for 'em to have this [Truckee] canal up here, which you see up here that they have. The Indians only own a little stretch of land. I guess it goes by Wadsworth, through there, over across where the canal goes.

Of course, you go back—this started in 1907, and it took 'til 1916 to get to Fernley. People don't realize what a slow process it was, that they didn't have the water running into the Fernley area 'til 1916 because this was all accomplished with horses and old-time machinery, and everything like this. And you're going through pretty near solid rock when you go in here.

We go down to the 1959 session, I was chairman of the federal affairs, and fish and game, and state and county affairs, and—. You know, I was on, I think, eight or nine committees that year, more than anyone else has *ever* been on, and many of 'em were very important.

When you take state and county affairs, you realize that every bill that pertains to cities, counties, and state come into that committee, and it's a very—. I had a man that had been county commissioner many years, Senator Lamb, that served on the committee, and he was very helpful to me in many ways.

Now, another committee that I was chairman of many, many years is the public health committee, which now is called the public health and morals. They combined the two; they used to have one for public morals and combined them. And many interesting bills come in. They're all bills pertaining to the blind, the crippled, and for many years they had a bill on there setting up the cancer board. And the chiropractors or osteopaths wanted a representative on [the] nine-man board, and the doctors wouldn't go for any representation from this group, and so I never would let the bill out of my committee. Pete Echeverria was senator at this time, and he said, "I'm goin' to draw that bill out of committee."

I said, "If you do, you'll be here 'til the first of the year because there's seven hundred bills in the desks, and I got the number of all of 'em, and I'll try to draw every bill out of every desk if we stay here 'til the first of the year."

And that ended that. No one's ever, in the senate—they have in the assembly, drawn, many times, bills out of the desk, which it only takes a simple majority there, where in the senate, it takes two thirds. And to my knowledge, never in the history of the senate has this ever been tried, to get a bill out of somebody's desk.

Finally, I kept sayin' to the doctors, "You've got a nine-man committee. You got 'em outvoted, eight to one," you know—which is the way I feel. But we recognized 'em, you see. This is the point to say. We give 'em recognition. "But," I said, "the public recognizes them, too, don't they?"

Finally, they agreed. After four or five years, they agreed that they would accept one because they saw they never were going to get their bill out of the committee, and they agreed to accept the chiropractor on the board. So there's one that serves on the board.

We could go back to—oh, another bill that my vote passed—just passed by one—was the one set up for the reciprocal trade for doctors. And we had quite a battle on that. This goes back to the 1951 session that the doctors wanted this one, reciprocal trade with other states, and then also the testing. You had to take an examination; if you didn't have reciprocal with another state, then you had to take an examination in the state of Nevada, which you still have to do. And I think it was aimed purely at chiropractors and osteopaths. They all seemed to pass it when they come in here.

I was a little dubious about the bill at the time, and I didn't know which way I was going, so Dr. [Ernest] Mack come over there, and I said, "Dr. Mack, could you pass this examination today?"

And I didn't think he could, and you know, if he'd'a' said—answered the wrong way, the bill wouldn't've passed. He said, "No, I'd have to study several months before I could pass it."

So that changed me right then. I said, "Well, the man honest about it" [laughing]. So that's the reason I voted for it. If he'd'a' gave me the other answer, that he could go in there and pass it, I'd'a' killed the bill—I mean, it was that close.

I'd served on the education committee, too, in '60, I think—'62, '64, there. Well, I was on there later, too. I was on there in other years, too. In legislative functions. I was chairman of taxation later on, and I served with Carl Dodge.

Carl Dodge is a very peculiar type of legislator. People don't realize this, but in all

the time that I've been there (and Carl's been there a long time), Carl's never gone out to dinner with anybody. Never yet have I saw him. He'll send out and get a sandwich and eat by himself in there. I don't know why, never been able to figure it out. We'd always invite Carl, and he said, "No, I don't want to go." And I don't know whether he thinks he's better'n we are, or what, but—. He would never go with us, but we usually go every day. Four or five'd go one day, and we'd—you know, we all go in a different group, but every day we'd mix 'em up, but he never would participate with us.

But he's a brilliant legislator. He used to be very adamant on education, but set down stringent rules, and stuff like that, but his attitude has changed the last two or three years because he's going a little overboard, and I thought he'd be the last one to do this. But he's been going overboard on education.

I introduced a bill, I think it was the '60 session, authorizing the spanking of students in the schools. And all of the legislators said, "Every mother in the state'll be down here jumpin' on your back." The bill passed, and do you know that I never had one individual, not one, come down and complain about this bill—not one father, mother, teacher, anybody. 'Course, it's set up that the principal and everyone—you know, he has to be in there to do it.

Now, another thing is the repeal of full train crew law. I probably was mainly and many times responsible that this has never been repealed. Because the railroads made a contract with their unions for the full crew, and I don't think it's the place of the legislature to go in there and protect the railroad, or the brotherhood, either. It's not our place. They made the contract in good faith, so they should break it the same way. And it's goin' to come up this time. I know that. They're going to come up, keep doing it. This is part of the

real strike today, is they want to take off some members of the thing.

I think the annual session, that first one we ever had that the annual session was real long and cumbersome, I don't know whether you know it, that Kennecott Copper and all of the great industries in the state got so sick of the legislature down there that—. And they had to keep their lobbyists down there at high salaries. They started an initiative petition to repeal the annual sessions.

Howard Gray is a lobbyist for Kennecott Copper. He is a real brilliant, capable individual. Another man down there that is a great lobbyist (he represents a part of the gas stations; he represents the Green Stamp company) is George Vargas. George is a very capable individual and does a terrific job down there for his companies.

I introduced a bill last time, and a fellow in the house introduced it, that the gas stations can't give giveaways. Of course, I figured it was just a racket—which it was—that the companies didn't pay for them. The individual gas companies had to pay for 'em, and they got stuck on 'em, and they came down there and forced pretty near all the gas stations that were giving 'em, the fellows themselves. They didn't want to give it, but the company made 'em do it. So we repealed that, and I think it was a very good thing which we accomplished.

I introduced a bill one time on getting the consent of marriage of minors. Used to be, I think, the father had to come over here, you know, for a marriage from California and places. And they didn't realize it, and the mother'd come over with the children and waste a trip over here. I wouldn't say it's wasted, but they might've been of poor circumstances and couldn't come again. I think that the mother or the father, either one, should be capable of determining whether

their son or daughter can—you know, be married even if they're sent out of legal thing.

There was many years, you know, that the Civil Air Patrol were like beggars. I think the legislature gave 'em \$3,000 every two years, or something. They had ground. Raymond I. Smith used to give 'em eight or nine thousand, and different people do that, so I introduced a bill in the legislature that—\$15,000 a year. Well, they get that every year now. It's law. They don't have to put [in] any more, just put it in instead of every year just have to be put in for \$3,000. And they put in \$3,500 and never get it passed. I put it in for \$25,000, got \$15,000. So it's law now, and I think they do a great job. They're always out on rescue and search, and things like that, and I think they do very good with it.

Then we had that reapportionment at that time. On that reapportionment, of course, I have to disagree with reapportionment because I don't believe in it. I think the greatest legislators in all the history of the state of Nevada came out of small counties. I can't name one outstanding senator I've ever worked with from a large county. You take Getchell, Noble Getchell, you take Fred Settelmeyer, you take Carl Dodge—well, I go back—a lot of 'em you know, in time, I forget. A fellow that used to be in Winnemucca there was outstanding, a man. They had a lawyer from Elko, Robbins. Jack Robbins was an outstanding man.

Jack Robbins—I don't know whether people know or not, but he controlled the legislature. He didn't control the assembly, but he controlled the senate when I was in the assembly. And Jack Robbins, any bill came in the senate he didn't like, it went in the fish and game. That's where all the bills that Jack Robbins didn't like would go, in the fish and game, and that's where they stayed. Might be the best bill in the world, but if Jack Robbins

didn't like it, this is the way he was, and he was the boss. And if anybody argued with Jack Robbins and he had a pet bill that he wanted passed, that bill never passed, because Jack Robbins had the power and the influence. And naturally, I think this is wrong, that one man should have this much power. Because I think the people that have bills, if they're bills for the betterment of the state of Nevada, they should be passed. And one man should not be able to kill 'em.

And then you [laughing]—you go back to the same argument that you have seven men out of twenty sitting on the finance committee, or sitting on [the] taxation committee, and a fellow has a pet bill, and maybe they kill it in committee. So who's right? It might be a great bill, but the understanding—. And it may be they may have enough to pass, and it gets out in the floor, and it may lose in the committee by four to three. And if a bill's killed in the finance committee, to revive it, you've got to get five out of seven. Well, I know they killed the education bill [for the medical school] for \$3.2 million up here last—'69, and Humphrey came down, and Miller, and they asked me if I would revive the bill.

I said, "This is almost an impossibility, but I know Fransway'll go. I have Pozzi and myself," and I said, "I'll get Fransway, and," I said, "I might talk to Gibson or Henderson." I said, "He's a friend of mine, and tell him it'll help me next election. And I know he don't expect it'll pass the senate anyway."

So I asked him. I said, "Would you help me just get it revived? I don't think—you know it won't pass anyway."

And so he said all right as a favor, and we got the favor, and we passed it—you know. I knew it was going to pass, if I ever got it out. So it passed.

Then we go down to changing in the directorship of the state welfare department.

You know, there was a time that the welfare director couldn't be fired. But I don't believe in this type of—. I still go back to the old time when "to the victor belong the spoils." I think the governor coming in now should have the right to fire anybody he wants. I think this is his prerogative. He has to live with 'em.

Of course, I'll have many people disagree with me because they say the whole function of the government's disrupted if you fire everybody, but I don't think any governor's coming in there, unless he's a mad man, and firing everybody. He's going to have an orderly transition. He should be able to get rid of those that he don't want. He got a lot of people in there that are picayunish, and—"Well, I don't like him. He's a Democrat," or, "He's a Republican governor, and I'm the opposite party. I'll do all—." Well, now, that's not working for Nevada, for New York, or wherever you're at. Doesn't make any difference where it is.

So we passed the bill, finally, on that welfare, and the governor let her go, and I was accused of making a deal with the governor, some kind of deal. I don't know what the deal was about. He was goin' to do somethin' for me. He'd sign the bill and fire her, and I was supposed to do something else. But I don't know what it was, because I never made a deal with him. Only deal I could see that we made is that he'd have a right to appoint somebody of his own choosing, which I think is—. And I think it's proved very effective. You haven't had much criticism over the welfare, and it's grown great in scope—I mean, there's many more problems than you ever had before in the state and you don't hear the criticism, or anything like that. I think I was justified, and many people don't, so you got to take it from there.

[How did I get interested in the state welfare department?] Well, I have a college

degree in social studies, and I've always been interested. I introduced the—1951, I introduced a bill for raising the old age pension. I've introduced every blind pension in the state, introduced the silicotic pension thing covering the miners. Pretty near every piece of my work is introducing something to help somebody. Only God knows, if you can't help the—-. You see, I take a different outlook on things than other people. Now, I say, if you give an old-age person—he's gettin' thirty dollars a month—you give him seventy dollars a month, everything is spent in the community. He can't go any place with this money. If you give him a hundred, a hundred and a quarter, he's going to have a better life, and everybody in the community is going to have a better life because he's going to spend that money there. You spend a dollar here, five dollars there, four dollars there—everybody in the community benefits, you see. This is the way I look at the blind, the crippled, the aged—all these things. Your hospital's going to get a little bit, each business is going to get a little bit—everybody's benefited. And this is the reason I believe in it, and I want a good welfare department, something like that. I've had several calls that say that I'm goin' to be welfare director. I said, "I don't want a headache." I don't want *nothing*. You know, they keep callin' me, he's goin' to give me somethin'. I think he is, but I don't want anything. I'm satisfied. I might run for senator in Sparks next time, which they're beggin' me to do.

[How did I get interested in Mrs. Coughlan's problems?] I didn't, never got interested in Mrs. Coughlan's problems. got interested in the *peoples'* problems. I got interested in the old age. In all of the years that I've been a senator, I can get called any time of day or night, and I'll go there and try to solve their problem. I'm the only man that'll do this. If they call me at twelve o'clock at night, if they

call me at six in the morning, I'll say, "I'll be in. I'll do somethin'," and I do somethin' about it. Well, when the aged called me up that she's cut 'em for this, and the blind called me, and the crippled called me, and naturally, I got an interest in it. I started checkin' into it, and I thought they were gettin' a bad deal.

Now, I've introduced a bill six times in the legislature. I've never been able to do anything. It's one of the only bills I ever lost, and I think it's the finest bill you can do, is aid to the totally permanent disabled. Every state in the union has it except Nevada. The government pays eighty to ninety percent of all costs, where today, the cities and counties pay it all. But I can't get the state to buy it. I've introduced it for—last time, I got Farr to go with me; we introduced it together. I introduced it two or three times before that alone. I think this would be terrific, taking care of the totally permanent disabled. This is the things I think is good for the state, because it's the only state that don't have it, and I think this we should have.

Then we reorganized—about this time, we had the reorganization of the government. We set all the departments—banking, and commerce, and our real estate, insurance, under the banks and banking, and other departments under here, and other departments under a thing, and I think this is where the—because I voted for this. I was the only Republican. And I think this is the reason (this is the same time the Barbara Coughlan bill passed, and had enough senators, both Republican and Democrats, to pass it in both houses) they think this is where I made the deal with the governor. I mean, this is the thing. But let me say this, that the Republicans, back in the '40's, tried this same plan, to reorganize. And I think that it was a saving to the state. I think everything ought to be set up so you have more efficient,

more—. You see, there's so many—it's like this \$2.5 million that Sawyer wanted for the education. What year was that he called that? '63 or '65, in there? The schools, where—his special session for the money? So the nine Republicans—eight, nine of us, they called me in, eight of 'em, and they said, "We got to stick together so Sawyer doesn't get this passed."

I told them right off. I said, "If they need the money for education, I'm going to vote for it."

So I was a maverick. I left 'em, this is why, the Republican party. This election, I got all the returns. Every Democratic precinct in Washoe County I carried. All the Republican precincts for Raggio and Fike won three to one; I got beat. And this is one of the reasons why. This is politics. I probably feel better. My wife feels better [laughing] after eighteen—. I don't have any problems any more. I don't have my phone ringin' every five minutes somebody wantin' somethin'. I got some rest, and it'll do me good for a couple years. I go out and play golf every day. Today, I was up fixin' a fence. I feed the cattle in the morning, feed 'em at night. I used to have to hire a man out here. Three hundred a month and board and room—I can do it myself. And I'll live longer, I'll feel better. My wife's happier, and what more do you get out of life?

Another thing that I was—I don't know if you ever saw the copies where they had me out marching with the pickets [during the discussion of the Equal Rights Commission]. Have you got any of those?* I'm a firm believer in the Constitution of the United States gives all of us equal protection under the law, equal opportunities, equal everything. And I just can't see, and never will be able to see, where you pass special privileges for every group. I have nothing against the colored people.

I think another thing that beat me is because I led the Israel drive for bonds. I

think a lot of people resent Jewish people. I don't know why. I'm chairman of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. I'm a national delegate to it for the state of Nevada. I just got elected again as a national delegate.

I slept in college and high school with colored athletes. I go to colored peoples' homes and eat, but when it comes to passing legislation that you have to accept them, or he has to accept 'em, then I can't. I can accept 'em in my own mind. But there's no way in the world that I can pass a piece of legislation to make anybody else accept anything, because you can't do it by law. This is proven in the South. It's proven in the state of Nevada. They want to bus 'em now. I can't go for busin', where you got a colored district in Vegas and—. Or take Los Angeles. You got to bus 'em twenty-five miles to go to school. This is going to break every school district in the nation. Of course, I can't condone fellows like [Jesse] Sattwhite, either. I think the man should've been kicked out of school a long time ago. I mean, this is my opinion.

[How did I feel about the fellows that were lobbying for the civil rights law, like Clyde Mathews and Eddie Scott and Jim Anderson?] Well, let me tell you—and I'm going to give you just one little example of this. As you know, Mathews filed for the Congress. I filed because I didn't like Mathews, because I said he's a phony. I sat on this ranch. I never left the ranch, and I can take you out and show you the paper where I carried every county against Mathews. I carried every colored district against Mathews. Would you believe that? I got a bigger colored vote—I got six hundred colored votes in Las Vegas, and Paul Laxalt got fifty-nine. So I carried 'em all in

*See Slattery papers, Special Collections Department, UNR Library.

Hawthorne. He led 'em. So this proved to me this isn't what the colored people want. They want a right to earn a living. They want a right to live like you and I. But they don't want us to give if it's only to a few. You got a few whites that want the same thing, 'cause *they* want it.

There's another man that played a very prominent part in that. He's the head of the B'nai Brith, I think, in Sparks. His name is West, wasn't it? West? So I'll never forget we were down there one night, and they said—Mathews and West said, "Could you lend us five dollars?"

I said, "What do you want five dollars for?"

"Well," they said, "we—session's late tonight, and we want to stay for the session with the civil rights, and we want to eat."

So I said to 'em, "I'll take you out to dinner and buy you a big steak. You can't buy it for five dollars, the two of you, and you won't owe me anything." I said, "This'll probably be better."

So I took 'em out to dinner, and we had a good time and talked. When I voted against the—got up and fought the civil rights thing, I complimented Eddie Scott, I complimented Mathews, I complimented all of 'em for the nice way that they acted while they were down there tryin' to get the legislation passed.

Probably'd been passed before if [Charles] Kellar'd stayed out of there. He's a dangerous man. He's a colored lawyer from Las Vegas. And they had a lot of picketing, and things like that down in the legislature, which doesn't bother me—you know. What do I care if they picket? At least, I have the courtesy to talk to 'em, I have the courtesy to go outside with 'em. Nobody else would do this. I have the courtesy to listen to the problems—to everybody's problems when I was there. I didn't care if I agreed with 'em or disagreed, if they could change their mind. I could listen. Now, Carl

Dodge won't listen to anybody. You come down, he's always busy. Now, they've set up a little new building down there. The lobbyists can't get in there; nobody can get in the senate or assembly chambers, which is wrong. That belongs to you, and myself, and the taxpayers. It don't belong to these few select groups. If I'd'a been there, I'd'a tried to change it, so the people could be there.

Now, I believe in parks. I voted against the Lake Tahoe park. I guess that was the only one. And I—only reason I voted against it, I don't believe in condemnation proceedings. I don't think the government—if they can say to Whittell, "We want your property," they can come down tomorrow and they can take mine.

I was the only man that voted against your urban renewal. Ten years ago, they bought urban renewal over on Sixth Street, ten or fifteen years ago. They scraped off five or six square blocks of buildings, took it off the tax roll, and it's been layin' idle since. This's what I said it would happen. I was the only one that voted against the urban renewal, and this is the reason.

I voted against condemning the Lake. I wasn't against the park, but I was against the condemning. I didn't vote for the thing for Lake Tahoe, either, for the master plan of the thing, because it's the same thing. Now, you see, there's people up there fifteen years ago that bought a lot to retire on. Then they want to build a house on it. They say you can't build it. Is this right? Well, do you think it's right? They've been payin' heavy taxes. Their taxes up there are just like it is here. And they don't get anything for their money. That's another thing.

The 1964 session was an interesting session, where we had a lot of problems with schools, which you're goin' to have, and they're goin' to continue to have. I think this

session we'll probably spend more money—far more money than any session because the state employees already want \$10,000,000; welfare's goin' to need ten or fifteen, twenty million [dollars] more; and the schools're already screaming for more money. And all I can say, you're going to have more taxes. you may have an income tax, or some type of tax, because you can't spend money and pluck it out of the air. You got to get it. So if you get a ten-dollar-a-month raise, as a teacher, and they take away fifteen for an income tax, you're satisfied, because this is what you want—I mean, you *should* be. I don't think you *will* be. The state parks are going to want a lot of money this year. They already passed the \$5 million bonded indebtedness, which I worked all during the campaign. I said, "This is one of the most important things to the state." I think it is, to preserve some of our resources for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to come on. If you don't do it today, the price is going to be so high in five years you're not going to be able to do it.

A couple very interesting people that I worked with— Casey Fisher, I see he used to be a service station operator. And he and I got along. He's a little, teeny fellow, and we got along real good. He's from Ely, used to be county commissioner. And I used to go on the highway there, and—you know, hitchhiked around, and I'd leave the car for my wife, and she'd take me over and I'd hook a ride. And I rode in one time with a fellow by the name of Bruce Parks. He said he'd just moved here—this was many, many years ago, and he said he just moved here from California. He was a lawyer in California and he was goin' to stop his law practice, you know. He bought a Ford agency down in Hawthorne. And I remembered the name. And pretty soon, he got appointed, I believe, to the—Seevers got appointed to the senate, and he resigned the

assembly, and he (Parks) got appointed to the assembly in his place, and he served there. He was the speaker of the assembly. And then he got over in the senate; he won over there. He beat Farrell Seevers, who had been there. Farrell Seevers started in the assembly with myself, and so did Walt Whitacre. We started in there the same time; we all moved into the senate the same time. And Seevers got elected there, and he got elected in Lyon County, and Seevers run this year for the assembly and got beat down there. (This schoolteacher beat him. Now, I see they're not going to let her come here unless she resigns. I don't know what's goin' on.) But Parks had a wife, real lovely wife and twin daughters. Then he died, oh, about a year ago with, I think, leukemia.

Then I was elected that year [1965] as the minority leader. You know, this is the most miserable job that I ever had in my life. Everybody wants it. I could'a' had it last time. I didn't want it. Because it's a job where you have a Republican governor, you got to stand up and do all his battlin' for him whether you agree with him or not. Many times I wanted to resign the job because if I want to take off on somebody, it's hard to do in that position. So I kept my mouth shut all the time. When I wanted to lambaste somebody or somebody, it would reflect on the whole party, where if I'm speaking as an individual, instead of minority leader, then I assume the responsibility myself. But when I got *that* job, [laughing] that was miserable, the whole session, because when everybody asked me all the time, "What's wrong with you?" and, "You're so calm this session," [laughing] and everything. Well, I accepted the responsibility. I took the responsibility, and I could'a' had it before; I could'a' had it last time—I didn't want it, 'cause this is the most miserable session that I ever spent.

I introduced a bill for—I think in this session, '65— for \$15,000 for starting

restoration work in Virginia City. Then I set up a committee, composed—I mean, I didn't appoint the committee, but they appointed Oakes, and they appointed a lawyer that's very prominent, and different people, that Engelhard from Virginia City, with the \$15,000.

Now, I don't know, they fixed up the Fourth Ward schoolhouse, and they've spent \$100,000, I guess. Solari Paint donated this paint, and somebody else the shingles, and the labor unions went up every week, different crafts, and did the work for nothing. I think they got most of the \$15,000 back. And I think it was a wonderful thing, because they accomplished so much at this time.

Then I introduced a bill that a man couldn't file for more than one office or hold more than one office at one time. Well, about this time, some individual in the community filed for four different offices in Washoe County at this time, '65. He filed for four, and then you had another fellow that I didn't get along with that was the city commissioner or county commissioner, and also, he was in the fish and game. Well, I say they conflicted with one another. You can't serve two masters. So I put a bill in that was passed—you know, that you can't hold both of those elections. I don't know, and a fellow that was runnin' for four jobs—say you're very popular, and you get elected to four jobs, how can you handle 'em? One office is enough for a person, 'cause you have capable people.

Then we had the civil rights bill come up again, and we had quite a battle on that. And we did set up a commission, I believe, that year, did set up a commission. I don't think they've really accomplished anything. They have the authority. I don't think the money—we gave 'em enough money to operate. They had capable men, people like Paul Garwood. They came in with a report (I think the

report was three to two) condemning several organizations in Las Vegas and Reno for not cooperating, and Paul Garwood and some other member resigned because they had a minority report, and they didn't like the way it was going.

And I introduced the same year a master plan for roadside rests. Now, you go to every state in the Union—. This is one state I firmly believe should have roadside rests. Now, you go through North Dakota, every twenty-five, thirty miles, both sides of the road—you go from either way, they got a roadside rest—trees, parking places for trailers, and everything like that—place to take a bath, place to shave. They want you to stay. And we run into people, my wife and I, traveling over the country, and we'll stop in these places—usually got the trailer—and they'll say to us, "We don't stop in Nevada. When we get there, we go right through because you don't have roadside rests."

Well, I started to figure, how many dollars do you lose? Economically, how much do you lose if you don't have the place for the people to stop? They stop two, three times in a state, they got to spend a lot of money in the state. But I didn't— well, the bill was— I withdrew the bill because the highway came over and gave me the word they were working on roadside rests, they're going to put 'em in, but they're just little, teeny things, though. Well, they got a nice one this side of Sparks, I think. Every night we go by, it's loaded with people, even now in the cold.

Then we had the reapportionment. Then, as we have this year, we have the eighteen-year-old vote—that goes on the ballot next time, I think, if it passes the legislature. But the people'll never pass it. Well, in North Dakota, they had both governors two years ago, four fellows for United States Senator (two were running), and four congressmen, all come

out pleading with the people, and got beat two to one. And every state, the last election, it got beat. And it's not due to the good kids, it's due to the actions of the small minority of children. But people don't want [them] to vote, and they're penalizin' the other ones.

I took the lead first with Maude Frazier in it, and then I changed my mind one time, then I went back last time and passed it, and—I don't know. The fate of it has to go through the legislature this time, and if it passes, it goes to the people.

Then we had the overhauling of the Motor Vehicle. And dangerous drugs, I don't know what you're goin' to do with dangerous drugs. Who knows what a dangerous drug [is]? You get rid of one, they come in with a new one. I mean, it's so simple. Only way to do, if you take care of the peddlers—strong, stringent rules of the thing.

I enjoyed in the '67 session working with Procter Hug. He's quite a fellow, as you know. He and I got along. 'Course, I got along with everybody over there. I wouldn't be on all the important committees unless you get along with people, and—you know, have the faith of the people, or you don't get these committees. But I served on education with Hug, and health and welfare with Vernon Bunker (he got beat this year), and he was very nice. And I was on taxation with Jim Gibson. I don't know how he reads it, or anything like that, but he's got a slide rule with everything that comes out in the finance committee or the taxation. He takes the slide rule—and I don't know how the hell to read it—excuse me, but it's very interesting, you know. And I look at him, I don't know what he's doin', but he comes with the answer [laughing]. He comes [with] that thing, and it drives me crazy, you know. I can take a pencil and figure anything out, hut [laughing] I'm lookin' at him with that slide rule, and he comes up with the answer. And

I'll take a pencil, and couple hours later, I got the same answer.

Yeah, well, I introduced some bills on cruelty to animals in the '67 session. And this was the time when we had the talk of fluoridating the waters. I introduced a bill that before they fluoridate the water, and—it don't make any difference to me, because I drink my own well water here; I got four wells, and I don't have to worry about fluoridation. But this Christian Science and—I always try to protect these people because it's their right. They don't believe in medicine; they don't believe in fluoridation of water, and so I gave the people a chance to vote on it. Now, it'll be brought up again the next two years to vote, go to the vote of the people. They beat it bad last time. I'm not a doctor. I don't know whether it's good or bad.

I think one of the most interesting fights that I had was the medical school. You know, I was in the hospital with a 104 [degree] fever. I fell down in Carson. I went in Friday night. And on Sunday, I said to Dr. Anderson (and Maida Pringle was in the room), I said, "I got to go to Carson tomorrow.

And Dr. Anderson said, "It's no chance." He said, "You're liable to lose your leg."

I said, "Well," I said, "it's either that—. If you want a medical school, I'll go tomorrow, or you don't get the medical school. It's that simple. 'Cause we only got this week to get it in." And that was after our golf tournament, you know, which I put on every year.

And so he thought it over, and he said, "Well, if you'll take three pillows and somebody else'll drive you down there and bring you back, and you go to the hospital every night, and I'll come down and dress it during the day when I can, and—."

We had eight votes, and I came in, called Maida Pringle on Wednesday. I said, "I got nine," and Thursday I said, "I got ten." And

you see, there's eight I can't get, 'cause that's Clark County, and there's none of 'em goin' to vote for it. And I came Friday night, and I said, "I got the eleven votes, Maida."

And she said, "You kiddin'?"

I said, "No. I got the eleven votes."

And that's before Howard Hughes ever came up with any money, too, which was more miraculous. He hadn't said anything about the money. A lot of people think him coming with the \$6 million passed it. But the votes were all ready before he came with his money. People don't realize that. And a few days later (I think it was four or five days later), he came up with \$6 million, which I don't know whether he'll get now, the way they're going.

[How did I go about getting those votes?] Friends I did favors for. You see, we had six in Washoe County, and we had Snowy Monroe—no, we had Pozzi. So Snowy and I worked for years, and I just talked to him, and told him, "Where would you rather have the medical school, here or Las Vegas? Here'll be half the price that Las Vegas'll be. It's simple. They want it in Las Vegas, they're goin' to have it in Las Vegas if we don't get it." They're going to have a legal school; they're going to have a dental school. The school of law, if I was there this time, it'd be up here; it'd get started. We've got everything to go with it. We've got a vets hospital here. We got two big hospitals here. We've got everything to go with a medical school. You got everything to go, you got trial lawyers. If I was there this time, I'd put in for a law school, because they're going to have it down there. Just as well sit here and face it. 'They're going to have it there. And they won't get it this time, but the next time around, they'll get it, and the dental school, and everything else. Cost down there's goin' to be ten times what it would be up here, 'cause we're all set up for it.

We've been workin' years, this gangster-lookin' fellow, and Dr. [George] Smith.

What's this fellow's name? I get a kick out of— [laughing]. Every time I see him, he reminds me of Capone; he's in the medical setup with Dr. Smith. He was over to Washoe Medical Center here with Dr. Smith. He wears a little hat like those gangsters used to wear, and Italian. [Licata.] Yeah. Every time I see him, I get a laugh. He said, "What are you laughin' at?"

And I said, "You remind me of Prohibition days back in Chicago." Everybody says that when I mention it. Do you ever notice that? Oh, yeah. He's real nice, nicest guy in the world, you know. But he just reminds me—he dresses like that, you know.

Yeah, we get that finance committee in the '69 session, I enjoyed working on there. I think I introduced a bill pertaining to Dr. Tillim, and I introduced a bill for one reason alone. I think the man gave sixteen years of life tryin' to improve the mental institution. And when you sit down and say "mental institution," and then when you say "Sidney J. Tillim Memorial Hospital," I think that anyone would have to agree that "Sidney J. Tillim Memorial Hospital" is a lot better sounding than the "mental institution." It was only a little recognition for the work he did. It could've been anyone else's name. I think they're going to name Coney Island Drive Tillim Drive. Now, I understand that that's in the works, that they're going to name that Sidney J. Tillim Drive or the Tillim Drive instead of Coney Island Drive.

But it passed the senate twenty to one—or, twenty to nothin'. I know what happened. Tom Kean got up and fought it in the assembly, and some of the rest of 'em, and—I don't know. God only knows why they do it.

Then I introduced a bill pertaining to liability, in the '69 session, on motor accidents, the same bill they have in Oregon. There has to be something done in this state pertaining to a

lot of these things on motor vehicles because the man that's insured—and we have so many people drivin' around that have no insurance. 'Course, everybody's supposed to either have \$12,000 insurance or \$12,000 in something that can take its place 'til you can pay off up to that. But you have so many fellows that are careless, drunk, and I've tried many times to get some type of law down there that you can't get your driver's license—or, you can't get your car license unless you have insurance. And it's got to come to that someday. Why should you have to have it, and another guy that doesn't have a quarter to his name, he runs into you, and you're stuck all your life? This would be simple. And a fellow'll say, "Well, what if the guy cancels insurance?"

I said, "All you have to do is the company that's carrying his insurance, he notifies the state, and you cancel the driver's license and his auto license. That's all you have to do. It's just simple."

But I never could sell it. They're going to someday; it's going to come to that.

So many of these bills, like the blind aid care, I introduced several of those bills. Helen Herr and I introduced many of 'em together. This legislative pay issue is very strange. I was against it. Fransway talked to me. And, of course, I think that Senator Fransway and Senator Titlow, that have four counties, and they're called once or twice a month to each county seat, should be reimbursed. And when I voted for the bill, I said I don't approve of it, that I never will take it. I'll never draw a nickel of it, but I think that Fransway and Titlow and two or three of these senators—. And I don't think anybody in a big county should draw it. And it passed by a couple of votes. And then I got all the heat for it, which I'm used to [laughing].

And I voted against the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency for the simple reason that

I don't think that you should have the right to restrict to anybody from what he wants to build. If I want to build something down here, it's my property, I ought to be able to build it. I invested my money here. They invested theirs there. I can't see anything wrong with the Lake today—the buildings, the beauty—compared with it twenty, thirty years ago. I think it's ten times as beautiful. The buildings up there—you might disagree, but the houses and everything, I think it's beautiful. They haven't destroyed anything. It's in a figment of a man's imagination. Polluting of the river's been going on for years. Very interesting—two of the senators that run this time, they're goin' to take care of the Truckee River. You can bet anything you want, there won't be any bill introduced protecting the Truckee River by anybody. It was campaign promises. I'm waiting 'til it's over to see. I'm not going to say anything 'til it's over. But it won't be.

And all these years I've been in the legislature, I've never voted for a sales tax. Then they raised it from two to three, I said it was unconstitutional, and I said the judges made a deal with the legislature, which they did, and passed. Last time they put on another half cent. I still say it's supposed to go to the people. There's many inequities in the sales tax. I live in Storey County, I spend six or seven thousand dollars in Washoe County. I buy my tractors, I buy my automobiles, I buy my groceries. There's a hundred and seventy-five people in this little stretch of Storey County [who] buy everything in Reno. They're paying the sales tax in Reno where they should be paying it in their own county. Do you see? This county doesn't get any benefit. This river section, eighty-seven percent of all the taxes in Virginia City come out of this section. Might be ninety now, 'cause it's grown so much. And if it hadn't been for

this district, Storey County would've had it closed many, many years ago.

People don't realize that the founding fathers of this great state of ours, in their wisdom, set up a procedure that benefited practically every county in this state. You take Lyon County, Churchill County, Pershing County, Humboldt County, Lander County, Elko County—they made every one of 'em. Now, what right has Lyon County to come up to Fernley? What right? This belongs in Washoe County, really, in reality. To give this county a railroad tax—miles of railroad. They gave Fernley miles; they gave Churchill miles. It kept every county—they never could have sustained without these taxes. There was no way that they could sustain without this tax. It's kept all of these counties self-sufficient.

I remember last time that Senator Swobe had a bill that all the taxes would be paid from their origin. Like the railroad origin was in Reno and Sparks, tax for the line would go to Reno and Sparks. And he kept coming to me, and he kept saying to me, "How come you're not fighting it?"

I said, "I don't have any objections at all. I think it's a great thing."

So one day Swobe came to me, and said, "I don't understand you." He said, "I can't understand your reasoning. You're not fighting my bill."

"Well," I said, "Swobe, your bill hasn't got any chance to pass, in the first thing. Storey County would benefit a hundred times more with Tracy plant down there than they would with the railroad because *we'd* get all the taxes off of that big plant."

"My God!" he said. "I never thought of *that*!"

Because, you know, the way it's set up now, the miles that it runs in the county is the way it's taxed. So it all runs in Washoe County. We don't have any here. Ours come down from

Fallon. So we don't get anything out of it. We'd have the whole thing. But we would benefit many times more, so he's glad he didn't get it passed. Well, they got to get up pretty early to get the best of ol' Jim.

I think that the lobbyists play a great part in the state of Nevada—I mean, those that are—most of 'em [that] are down there. You have a few down there that—mostly composed of lawyers that are down there representin' somebody for somethin'. But you take men like Wallie Warren, he's down there; another man, Johnny Mueller—you've probably heard of Johnny Mueller; he was down there for years. They never ask you anything. Ollie Thomas used to be there with the railroads. They never asked me all the time I was there. I'd have to call 'em over and ask 'em if they'd explain this, explain that. And they were *very* good this way, and helped a lot.

I think that the worst thing happened in all the time I've been in the legislature [was] settin' up the Legislative Bureau. Because we used to have a man there by the name of Jeff Springmeyer that probably knows more than Russ McDonald knows now and'll *ever* know about parliamentary procedure, legislative things. And we used to run it for \$50,000 a year. Now, since we turned it over to him, it's gone up to about \$3 million, and I look for it to go \$2 or \$3 more million, which I think the state can't afford—I mean, it's one of those things.

[How do I go about analyzing a bill for myself?] I'm the first one in the legislature every morning at six o'clock. I study the bills. I never go to a party; I very seldom drink. Every night there's a free party, and they all go. Now, maybe they don't go to *all* of 'em, but most of 'em go, and I think there's free drinks and stuff like that—it's a big deal. If I want a drink, I can come home and buy it. But drinking doesn't mean that much to me. But

some of 'em party every night. I don't know how they ever get there in the morning to begin with. And it's interesting how they make it. I don't know—they can stay out drunk all night. Titlow's drinking pretty near every night, and he does a good, efficient job when he's there, but I don't know how he can do it. I couldn't do it.

When I came up for congress, I decided to run for congress for one reason only, because there were two liberals running, one Republican and one Democrat. And if Dick Ham would've beat Walter Baring, I would've been the congressman— it was this simple. Because the people I know wouldn't accept a liberal. And I proved it when I ran in the primary. I never left the ranch and carried every county, and carried every colored district over this liberal, which people, to this day, are still tryin' to analyze. And in the general election, I never worked because I knew—just throw your money away. I never went to 'Vegas. I got twenty-some thousand votes in Clark County, never went down there once. And I had a good vote in all the little counties without any work. Everybody else has worked hard, and I got more votes just sittin' home. They maybe should do that, sit home. They might be better off. You meet a lot of nice people.

Well, in the analysis of this campaign, the last one we just got over, they're still tryin' to analyze the results. They had, the Waldorf, give hundred dollars, thousand dollars that I'd win by 2,000 votes; nobody'd take it. I mean, this is the thing. But I would say the opponent spent maybe—had to spend at least \$50,000 for a couple of thousand-dollar job. And I probably worked harder this campaign, I went to four o'clock in the morning, went in all the restaurants, met the chefs and the waitresses, vent all day long into every building in Reno.

But he had a great thing going for him: "You elect two senators, make Spike one." His

father's a publicity man. He came up with a lot of these gimmicks that were, I think, very helpful. I never have any—. I do all my work myself. If I get beat, it's my fault. It isn't some publicity man I'm payin' money. I've never hired one. I go out myself, and I do my own work. Any ideas that you see, if they're good or bad, they're mine; they're not somebody else's. I think all of 'em should do that, more originality and their own thinking. I think that whoever you elect will do a good job for the state—I *hope* they will. I hope they work for the best interest of you and I and everyone else in this great state of ours.

I think this perhaps'll be the toughest session in forty or fifty years because they want to raise the aid to dependent children from thirty-three to seventy-four dollars. The state employees want ten million this year, ten million next year. The school teachers're goin' to want twenty, twenty- five million more. God only knows where you're goin' to get the money.

Another thing during the campaign that hurt me is I would get up, and Tom Kean'd get up, Fike'd get up—we got \$24 million. Kean's still saying this, "Let's take off the half-cent sales tax, let's do this, let's do that." And I'd get up right after they would and I'd say, "ye don't have \$24 million." And they'd tell me afterwards, "Why'n't you lay off? You're killin' the party!"

I said, "I'm tellin' the truth."

You know how the \$24 million—how you base the \$24 million—I mean, you've heard that said all the time—if the second two quarters maintain the same as the first two quarters, you'd have \$24 million. Do you understand? All right. You had 3,500 men out the second and third quarter at Mercury down there, out of work, So this, naturally, would have to drop your sales tax, your gambling tax, everything else. And then you see where the

Strip advertising part of the third and fourth quarter (and this is the fourth quarter) that the business is off thirty percent. So I'm to assume that if we got \$15 million that we got a lot of money. And then I'd say—people'd ask me, and I'd explain this, and then I'd say, "Say that you have three snowstorms on weekends in Reno over the mountain. People can't—" Now, you had two weekends, didn't you. You walk in casinos, they're empty. How much sales tax, how much gaming tax do you lose, with thousands— forty, fifty thousand people coming? Now, how much do you lose? You got to figure seven, eight cents on the cigarettes. You got to figure the gambling tax, you got to figure the sales tax, and the liquor tax. You've lost this, 'cause you haven't sold any. Nobody's gamblin', nobody's buyin'. They're not here. So nobody knows until the end of the year how much money you had surplus. This is estimated on the first two quarters. But I couldn't tell anybody. They all thought I was tryin' to make something up. They all say they were going to have \$24 million. I say we're not. Now, we'll see who's right. They might have \$30 [million]. I hope they got \$50 [million], [laughing] 'cause they're going to need it.

My campaign technique is a lot different than anyone else's. I don't believe in goin' out. I would say Spike Wilson spent at least \$50,000 in his campaign. Now, I spent hardly anything, 'cept shoe leather. I worked harder this election than I ever worked in my life. I got up, my wife'll tell you, at four o'clock. I went into Harold's and went in and met the chefs and the waitresses on that shift, and go in another club, and then I'd start down, and went in every factory, every building in the community, and shook hands with everybody. It's one of those things. Like [E. L.] Cord called me up, and he said, "Any idiot that's runnin' on law and order today ought to get beat." He said, "The stupid people that's votin', they

don't know what they're votin' for." He said, "Every law and order man from New York to California, from Mexico to Canada got beat."

Farr's one of the best men that ever served in the legislature. He got dumped. Doug Webb is one of the most conservative men ever in the legislature. He got beat. Some idiot beat Webb, Valentine. See him with the long whiskers down here? He don't—he belongs in there like a hole in the head!

I could tell you a lot about a lot of your assemblymen down there. You're goin' to see it yourself, this time. They don't belong there because they got too many axes to grind of their own.

'Course, I gave a speech in '51. I said, "No lawyer should ever be allowed to sit in the legislature." They bring all these legal bills pertaining to—. The only one that I've ever served with, I'd say, that has worked for the people, it's Cliff Young. I think Cliff Young is one of the most dedicated people on conservation, on all things, for the people. And I hope he stays there a long time. I think Harris and Swobe, neither one of 'em belong there.

Harris is drunk every day. We got to wake him up to vote. When you send people like this down there, you spend your money [laughing] and mine. He worked against me because he wants to be in finance. And if I'm there, he can't be in there. But he isn't goin' to get on there, anyway, because Carl Dodge and John Fransway and Chic Hecht and Cliff Young are goin' to see that men like that don't get on there. He don't belong on there. He belongs down in that meat market, cuttin' meat. He went bankrupt twice. There's two or three in the legislature's went bankrupt twice. They're down there spendin' your money.

You know, this is a funny election. Mary Frazzini, her kid got picked up, dope, just 'fore election, she tops the ticket. Fry gets a divorce

just before election, he's next on the ticket. McKissick gets drunk [laughing] and runs off the cliff, he's next. Now, I like McKissick [laughing]; don't get me wrong. But how do the people vote? You know, it's amazing to me that I'm the first one there every morning. I tend to business, go home and study the bills. I never miss a meeting. If you look at my record, you can tell anybody that I work harder than anybody down there. My life is clean, they got no scandal on me; they got nothing at all they can ever say. So how do you figure it out?

I'm not talkin' sour grapes. You want me [laughing] to talk about political philosophy and things. Because I'm happier than I ever been. I think this time—and I'm goin' to be honest with you—they're goin' to do so many things down there that's bad, the people're goin' to be sick of the whole bunch, and *anybody* can run and get elected. Now, you just remember this in two years.

'Course, I thought, this time, that the silent majority'd come out, that was for law and order—you know. I think takin' off on the University and tellin' 'em the truth didn't help, either. Takin' off on Sattwhite, takin' off on Adamian.

You know, another [laughing] very interesting thing—now, I think would be very interesting—you've heard of Dave Harvey? Well, he and I had a few battles, as you know. He first wrote to the National—you know, I had a TV program. The money I got, I had 'em make a check out and give it to the Salvation Army. I did the work for nothing. I had a different legislator on there every day. I had Paul Laxalt on two or three times, had General Westmoreland on there, and it turned into quite a big television program.

So this is, to me, is [a] classic example of America. I'm in campaignin', he calls Mrs. Slattery. He said, "Is Mr. Slattery there?"

She said, "No."

He said, "This is David Harvey." He said, "There's a big sign of your husband's in my yard." He said, "I know—I don't think your husband put it there." He said, "I think some of the students at the University put it there for a good joke. Would you have your husband come and get it?"

So on Sunday, I'm sittin' home, and Sunday I don't usually go to town. Phone rings, "This is David Harvey. Is this Senator Slattery?"

I said, "Yes."

He said, "You know, one of your signs are in my yard out here."

I said, "Does it look good?"

"Oh, yeah, it looks very good. It's uh—needs a little straightening up," he said. "Outside of that," he said, "it looks very good."

I said, "You know, you sound like a pretty good scout." I said, "I don't think you'd mind if I left it in your yard, would you?"

"Oh," he said, "it wasn't me." He said, "I didn't think you'd want it in my yard," you know. He said, "sure." He said, "I'll straighten it up for you. Don't—don't worry about it," [laughing] he said—you know.

She got a kick out of it. This is America! We been fightin', arguin' over the phone. I talked to him, and then I met his wife down in the garage one day. I passed out a card to her, some service station. "Oh," she said, "I'm David Harvey's wife. We get quite a kick out of you," she says. "My husband's straightened that sign up in the yard pretty good," she said [laughing]. "I don't think we're going to vote for you, but we think you're kinda cute," she says—you know [laughing].

I mean, these is a lot of things. Oh, you could talk about anecdotes and things like this from now 'til doomsday, you know, different things that's happened over the years. You know, I happened to see a lot of water go under the bridge, right? How's that? Good?

[Who do I think controls the various legislators; are they really their own people, or do they represent something besides themselves, or someone besides themselves?] Well, let me tell you this. now, Fred Settlemeyer was Fred Settlemeyer. He represented Fred Settlemeyer, or the people. I think I represented the people to the best of my ability. didn't have any people say, "Well, he's worked for gamblin', he represents gambling." Well, let me say about gambling—only taxes I ever voted on were on gambling, nothing else. So that ought to—. If people ask me, I'd say, "Well, look at my record. The only taxes I ever voted on was gambling taxes. In fact, I introduced a couple of 'em." We had one fellow elected this year (I'd just as soon you didn't use his name), he's interested in only one thing. He has the Snelling-Snelling agency and they want a bill. He's goin' to be chairman of labor, and they want a bill in there to raise the amount of money that these labor [agencies] can charge for gettin' you jobs. It's set by law in Nevada, you know, which I think is wrong, because some guy's liable to lose a month's salary workin'—gettin' a job through these agencies. But that law'll be put in. You can find that'll be put in, and tried to change, but I don't know whether it'll be. Most of these people that's with the abortion bill got a pretty good check, you know, from—I'm not mentionin' any names—some of 'em Reno. Helen Herr got hers, because I saw the copy of the check. That's what helped to beat Vernon Bunker this time down there, because he exposed the check. The was a Democrat, went over to her friends and cut him up down there.

Politics is dirty. I know a lot of incidents there about different ones. I won't say anything about 'em, 'cause they got to live with their own consciences. But most all the men—Carl Dodge is honest, Jim Gibson is

honest, I think always the little county men were very honest. But you get a lawyer down there—Pete Echeverria, he represents the milk company, he represents this guy—well, you got to be obligated, don't you? Let me say about Spike Wilson—he represents the cement plant; he represents Boise [Cascade]; he represents the contractors; he represents the national teamsters, and a dozen others. Now, who is he goin' to represent? Can he represent you? I could've used this in the campaign. Everybody says to me, "Why don't you?"

I said, "I run twenty years and never threw any dirt in my life. I'm not startin' now to. I don't believe in it." If people want this—. How can you get up and fight for pollution, when he represents two of the polluters? Maybe others, too, you know. He represents this one down in Death Valley, you know, where they're destroyin' the pupfish? I been workin' on that with Cliff Young to try to protect 'em. He represents that group now, and you see the National Federation of Wildlife and everything's come out lately. Well, we been workin' on that for a year. Because they're pumpin' all the water out of the ground for agriculture use.

It's just like—oh, I have a different philosophy, outlook on things. Here, you take the water down to Fallon, you put a lot more land in production every year. Every place else in the country, they give 'em so much money not to plant. So you go down to Death Valley and you pump the water underground for some grain fields, where every place else they pay you not to plant. So you destroy. You destroy this lake over here, you destroy the pupfish. It's only about this big, you know. My wife and I go down and study 'em. Used to be great, big fish, prehistoric. Not many of 'em left. And they pump the water out of the ground, they're all gone, you see? Is that good?

[Do I enjoy being thought of as a controversial character?] Never bothers me. Nothing bothers [laughing] me. I go in that bed at night, and boom! seven o'clock, I'm asleep, 'til I wake up in the morning. So nothin' bothers me—if I think I'm right. If I do somethin' wrong down there, if I voted wrong, it gets in—. That's the only thing that bothers me. If I find out later, check into it, I made a mistake on the bill, and the bill was defeated with my vote, then it bothers me. Nothing bothers me.

[How many nights couldn't I sleep because I voted wrong?] I don't think I've had any, 'cause I don't think I voted wrong. I can tell you dozens of bills. I can tell you when they put a bill in there that anybody who tried to kill himself, you got thirty days in jail. I voted against it. I got up and give a speech. I said, "This is the worst thing in the world. A man don't need a jail cell to sit there and brood by himself. He needs companions. Give him a hospital where he's got nurses, somebody to talk to him." I said, "It's unconstitutional." In court it goes after it's passed— unconstitutional.

They took another bill, took the veteran's exemption away from everybody on automobiles. I fought that. I was the only—well, Tom Godbey in the assembly voted against it, and I did. I said, "It's unconstitutional." In the name of Heaven, how can you take a poor devil that's got a '54 or '55 car, and he's served maybe ten years in the Army, and a multimillionaire over here, he gets a thousand dollars, and this is all this guy's got [the veteran], he can't have it. I said it has to be unconstitutional. It went to court afterwards. The Legion took it to court, or Veterans of Foreign Wars—declared unconstitutional. I would just as soon they did away with the whole thing. And I'm a veteran. But you know, you got 35,000 veterans in this

state, times \$1,000— figure that out, how much your base of your taxes is. And maybe you had 5,000 in the state that went in from Nevada; 30,000 have already got a bonus from where they came. I tried to get 'em a few years ago to give a bonus to all Nevada people, just a couple hundred dollars. Give 'em a couple hundred dollars and do away with this here, and you'd have plenty of money. But every year, you're gettin' veterans movin' in here. So we've changed the law so they have to live here so many years 'fore they can get it. They used to just come in and get it. We did do that.

CONCLUSIONS

My philosophy in politics is the best, I think, of all of 'em, is to be honest with the people, even if the people disagree with your honesty—if you tell people how you believe, what you think. I think that's kept me in. Because I've been a controversial figure over the years, and I get a lot of votes because I stand up, and people say, "I don't agree with you, but at least you say what you think." And I think you get a lot of votes. I'm playin' golf today. I was state champion several times, but today I'm relaxed. I'm playin' as good as I ever done. My game's improved over the last few years, and I haven't played much. I'm relaxed. I go out there, they're surprised. Everybody says, "You must be—have a golf course out at the ranch. You practicin' all the time." Every day I go out, and I shoot better. I don't care about anything. I'm havin' a good time, and relaxed. I'm not thinkin' about this problem or that problem, but I'm still goin' to take keen interest, the same as Fred Settlemeyer and the rest of 'em, that we do have a good state and a good legislature, and I'm still goin' to take a keen interest in some form of politics.

Whether I run again or not doesn't make any difference. I'm still goin' to take an interest.

I think I have one of the loveliest wives for thirty years that any man ever had. We get along good. She's had a lot of trials and tribulations, you know, with the battles that I've gone through. She's very outspoken, but since I've been in politics, she keeps still, for the simple reason that she doesn't want to hurt me. Now, if somebody comes up and says somethin' to her, she can lambaste 'em, which makes her feel better 'cause she don't hold it in her. She gets it out, and [laughing]—and I feel a lot better for it—I feel a lot better that she's able to do these things. I never knew that she could relax as much as she has since I got beat. She just loves life. People talk to her now, say, "Feel sorry that your husband got beat."

She says, "Don't feel sorry for him. Feel sorry for the state. He's a lot better off than we['ve] ever been," you know? Philosophy is good, the life is good, who can get a better life than this? I get up in the morning, feed the cows, and like, now, she says, "If you're busy, I'll go up and feed the cows." How many

women do that? You know, it's pretty heavy, liftin' those bales of hay around, when you got that.

We have four daughters. Two of 'em's teachin' in Chicago. One's associate professor of medicine at University of Illinois. And we got one daughter that's married to a professor. She taught school, graduated from Marquette. Her husband is a professor at University of Wisconsin. And Nancy lives in—she substitute teaches in Virginia. Her husband is a colonel in the State Department. And we have a son here who lives in Reno. So we're like you, the family. I think the youngest was born in 1947; he'd be about twenty-four this month. I think he'll be twenty-four on December 26. It's a hell of a time to have your birthday, the day after Christmas [laughing].

I've belonged to many—I was commander of the American Legion seven times, which is quite a—could've still be, but I didn't want it. I was president of the Lions Club, 40 et 8, Eagles. I just got notified I'm dinner chairman again for the National Conference of Christian Jews, unless there'd be some way I could get out of that. I'm a national delegate to the national. In New York they have their meeting every year and they awarded some colored woman judge this year the Humanitarian Award, and some Catholic priests there.

I think perhaps we really don't have any plans. She's tryin' to get me to move to Hawaii, and I kind of like Nevada. I think it's probably one of the greatest places in the world to live, if they'll keep their tax structure as it is. But I don't see that you can take care of all people without makin' someone pay for it.

My philosophy of government is different than most people in this respect, that I realize at one time that the state of Nevada, or state of New York, or any state governed their own affairs. They got their own tax dollar in; they spent it the way they wanted. Now,

“big brother,” he takes big taxes back there to Washington and this is—I'm just tellin' you the way I feel about the government. You have Nellis Air Base, you had Stead, you had Mercury down here. The President calls Senator Bible and Senator Cannon in and says, “This is one of my pet bills. I have to get it passed,” and they say, “We're sorry, we can't go along with it,” he says to Senator Bible and Senator Cannon, “That big fund that you want for Stead and Nellis and the Mercury plant, there's no way that you can get the money, no way that I can condone those big projects out there.” Now, how's a man goin' to vote? You see, this is what I say is wrong. It used to be we governed ourselves. We took our own tax dollar, we spent it wisely, we spent it frugally. Now it all goes back to Washington, and they dish out. It's the money controlled today where there never used to be, where the president—or you could even be some congressman, or a senator might have a big project in his state. He might have a lot of influence, like Magnuson in Washington, one of 'em. For the Southern states, they stick together. They want some project down there, you say, “I'm sorry, I can't go along.” Well, then, they may kill all *your* projects. So you're not really representin' the people of the state. There's only one man that's representin' us right here, and that's Baring, 'cause he don't give a damn. He tells 'em—you know. “Keep your project,” that's what he tells 'em. And he's right. Because otherwise he's got to sell 'em—have to sell his soul to get these things.

No, I feel good, I sleep good, and I eat good. I hope it continues. I enjoyed this.

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